

Antityphoid Inoculation.—RUSSELL (*Bull. Johns Hopkins Hosp.*, 1910, xxi, 83) gives his conclusions as to the value of antityphoid inoculations based upon 3640 inoculations in the United States Army. (1) Vaccination against typhoid undoubtedly protects to a very great extent against the disease. (2) It is an indispensable adjunct to other prophylaxis among troops and others exposed to infection. (3) It is very doubtful if there is an increase of susceptibility following inoculation. (4) Vaccination during the disease, for therapeutic purposes, fails to reveal any evidence of a negative phase. (5) The statement that vaccination should not be carried out in the presence of an epidemic is not justified by the facts in hand. (6) The procedure is easily carried out and only exceptionally does it provoke severe general reactions. (7) No untoward results occurred in this series of 3640 vaccinations.

Thyroid Treatment in Epilepsy.—SIGMUND (*Med. Klinik*, 1910, vi, 702) reports a case of epilepsy occurring in a girl, aged nine years, in which certain evidences of thyroid insufficiency suggested that the epilepsy might be a result of defective thyroid functioning. The child was treated systematically by thyroid extract, and there has been a constant improvement for a period of two years.

Nutrient Suppositories.—POAS (*Berl. klin. Woch.*, 1910, xlvii, 617) has used with good success nutrient suppositories containing crystallized egg albumin, salt, and dextrin. Each suppository contains the equivalent of 46.2 calories. They are readily absorbed and four to five may be given in a day. Poas advocates their use in conditions in which rectal feeding is necessary.

PEDIATRICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Typhoid Epidemics from Ambulant Cases in Children.—G. BRÜCKNER (*Münch. med. Woch.*, 1910, lvii, 1213) has investigated the spread of typhoid fever by ambulant cases in children and also the porportion of children affected in a number of epidemics. While due weight must be given to the transmission of typhoid by water, food, and typhoid carriers, later investigations of epidemics show that personal contact stands foremost in the transmission of the disease. A number of epidemics have been reported as arising from contact infection alone. A rapidly culminating epidemic is usually caused by water or milk infection, whereas a gradually developing epidemic is caused by contact infection. It is proved that typhoid is spread by ambulant children with mild typhoid, often simulating indigestion, and with fever of a short duration. Koch has shown a number of instances of this kind especially in school

children. In epidemics a large proportion of children from one to ten years old are affected. Frosh cites 80 cases of typhoid, distributed as follows: From one to five years, 18 cases; from five to ten years, 35 cases; from ten to fifteen years, 27 cases. Meinicke and Schumacher report three epidemics. In the first epidemic, out of 64 cases, 43 were from one to fifteen years old; in the second, 52 cases showed 26 from one to fifteen years; and in the third, 51 cases showed 27 cases from one to fifteen years old. In Strassburg, from 1906 to 1909, there were 812 cases of typhoid: 324 cases, or 39.9 per cent., were from one to fifteen years old, 36.57 per cent. were from sixteen to thirty years, and 23 per cent. were over thirty years. One epidemic in a small town was shown to have started by a child with ambulant typhoid infecting its playmates, and resulted in the infection of 10 children and 4 adults. A second epidemic was traced to a child with ambulant typhoid, who was directly responsible for infecting ten playmates. In this epidemic, out of a total of 18 cases, 12 were children. In a third epidemic, a child in mid October developed a diarrhoea and slight fever, but had no medical attention. In mid November an explosive outbreak of typhoid occurred, 7 people on the premises falling ill at the same time and two playmates of the child living near by. The first child was then examined and gave a positive Widal reaction. This outbreak was caused by contamination of a well on the premises in cleansing the child's chamber close to it. A valuable lesson can be learned from these three small epidemics. All were caused by ambulant typhoid in children, and could probably have been avoided if the children had been at once isolated and their excrements properly disinfected. To summarize, from ten to fifteen years is the most susceptible age for contracting typhoid, and children from one to fifteen years form the main contingent of infections in epidemics. Typhoid in children is apt to be light, undiagnosed, and often untreated, and therefore especially dangerous. The ambulant type in children is often the starting point of a large number of cases and often of epidemics. The control and stamping out of these cases depends partly on the proper attention of medical school inspectors and teachers. Most important is it for the general practitioner to realize that the early years of childhood are disposed to this infection, that its course is mild and often taken for ordinary gastro-enteric trouble, and that each suspicious case should be isolated and a laboratory diagnosis established by examination of the blood and the stools.

A Theory of Insufficient Lactation.—Fock (*Munch. med. Woch.*, 1910, lvii, 1338) throws an interesting side light on Bunge's investigations as to the cause of insufficient milk secretion in nursing mothers. Bunge believes from his investigations that the milk secretion in the mother is diminished proportionately to the amount of alcohol her father had imbibed prior to her conception. Also that degeneration of the milk-forming glands is the sign of a generalized physical degeneration as shown by a vulnerability to disease, especially tuberculosis and dental caries. Dr. Fock's observation over a period of two years on the native born Bergdamara, Hottentots, and Bush tribes of German South Africa shows that in this period he has not found a single case in which a woman was unable sufficiently to nurse her child. Among these tribes, in fact, it is not rare to find children of two, three, and even five